

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

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Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (currently amended) A process for preparing a sheet of a crosslinked polyolefin foam expanded in an essentially unidirectional expansion only in its thickness, comprising surface-crosslinking ~~only one or both~~ faces of an unsupported intermediate polyolefin sheet to be expanded so that its degree of surface crosslinking is different from its core, these faces being perpendicular to the direction of expansion, and expanding and crosslinking the so formed sheet only in its thickness.

Claims 11 and 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (previously added) The process according to Claim 10, carried out continuously.

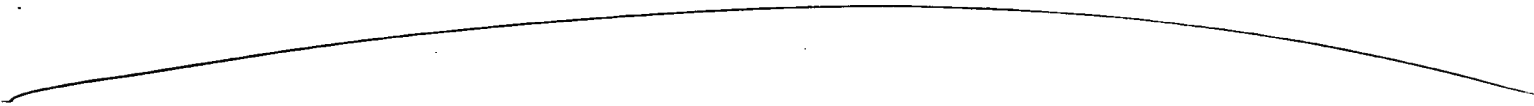
Claim 14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (previously added) The process according to Claim 10, wherein the polyolefin foam comprises at least 20% by weight of a polyethylene or of an essentially linear ethylene copolymer having a density of 0.80 to 0.96 g/cm<sup>2</sup>.

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Claim 16 (previously added) The process according to Claim 15, wherein the polyethylene or ethylene copolymer is obtained by metallocene catalysis and has a density of at most  $0.92 \text{ g/cm}^3$ .

Claim 17. (withdrawn) A compliant crosslinked foam obtained by the process of Claim 10.

Claims 18 and 19 (canceled).



**Basis for Amendment**

The intermediate polyolefin sheet being unsupported finds basis at page 3, line 19 and page 5, line 31 of the specification. The further amendment to Claim 10 finds basis at page 6, lines 13-15 of the specification. Additionally, the limitation of Claim 19 has also been incorporated into Claim 10, Claims 18 and 19 thus having been canceled.